



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

W
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,692	06/07/2006	Tetsuro Kurashina	3.0-042	3786
7590	12/11/2007		EXAMINER	
Michael E Zall Two Yorkshire Drive Suffern, NY 10901			BUI, BRYAN	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2863		
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/11/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/552,692	KURASHINA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Bryan Bui	2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 October 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-7, 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claim invention is the abstract ideas and legal agreements per se, it does not show how to performing the operation method? Where are the corresponding practical steps to perform the selection for selecting an appropriate shoe shape/selecting an appropriate shoe tip profile? They are not provided practical application to show the useful improvement (MPEP 2106). Further the transitional phase of the claim invention is missing. A method claims do not follows the format for the practice of U.S. Application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 1, lines 4-6, "the foot length", "the foot girth", "the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes" lacks antecedent basis. There is no refers back for these limitations.

5. Claim 4, lines 4-6, "the foot length", "the foot girth", "the first toe height ratio" lacks antecedent basis. There is no refers back for these limitations.
6. Claim 7, lines 4-6, "the foot length", "the foot girth", "the customer's preference of the fit property of shoe" lacks antecedent basis. There is no refer backs for these limitations.
7. Claim 8, lines 10-12, "the foot length", "the foot girth", "the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes" lacks antecedent basis.
8. Claim 9, line 3-4, "the angle", "the first toe, "the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes" lacks antecedent basis. There is no refer backs for these limitations.
9. Claims 1-7, 9-12 provides for the use of foot length, foot girth, and a difference between the lengths of a first toe and a second toe in selection method , but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claims 1-7, 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Further, there are many problems to interrelationship between the claims invention. For example, claim 5 only depended on claim 4, can not depend on claim 3 (different scenario of the embodiment). Same problem are occurred in claim 6.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Claims 1-12 are rejected.

12. The general functional descriptive and many errors in the format of the claims. Especially, these claims need to be clear to show the improvement for practical application, and follows the format of the U.S. Practical application such indicated in the rejections of 112 and 101 as set forth above. Therefore, the prior art are not use to apply at this time, but at least discloses the broad claimed limitations (see ref 7236948, figure 6; ref 6823550, figures 1-3, 12; ref 6735547, figure 2; JP 2003-52416, abstract, claims) . Applicants are respectfully request to submit the details amendments corresponding to the technique in the specification, and consider these references along with the amendment to avoid the errors or rejection may occur.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bryan Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-2271. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH from 5:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BB

12/5/2007

BRYAN BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

